SATURDAY EVENING **OCTOBER 8, 1904.**

"I Am A Very Womon"-MME SCHUMANN-HENK Tells Charles Donates



AL TRESCO

Former Grand Opera Star Feels She Has Not Sacrificed Her Art in Entering Comic Opera-Her Present Role Is Similar to Those in Which She Used to Appear-Now Wealthy Woman Tells of Early Struggles When She Hurried Home Between Acts to Look After Her Little Ones - Never Imagined She Would Become a Great Singer and Even Now Tells Herself She Is Dreaming-Authoritative Announcement as to the Number of Children.

DUVE dropped in at a friend's, haven't you, and all but discovered he good wife red-handed in her housework? You've had her come guiltily forward to welcome you with her right hand, while you knew not what her left hand, hidden behind her back, was You've seen her forced "company smile" give way to trank domestic at the sickening discovery of a forgotten dust cloth hanging over the back of a chair. And you have seen the poor, dear lady snatch the offending thing out of sight, and exclaim upon the carelessness of servants-a pitiable little farce at which you dared not laugh.

Well, it was somewhat like this that Mme. Schumann-Heink was found in her apartments at the Belvedere House, where even the baggage speaks German and rolling r's gather much moss.

Obviously, Madame and her maid had been tidying up the rooms, which were as neat as the simple dress Madame wore. The bright autumn sun streaming through the windows revealed no housekeeper's skeleton. Everything, apparently, was spick and span, as Madame ushered us from one room to another. But suddenly a horrified cry escaped her and she swooped down upon something in a corner. She seized it with both hands and thrust it at the startled maid with a commanding " 'Raus mit ihm!"

A carpet-sweeper!

ADAME plumped down into a chair and made awful eyes at the catastrophe. Then, with a laugh which contracted her black, dancing eyes into narrow lines of mirth, she pleaded:

'Please, I am a goot housekeeper, yes? I lofe to hafe it nice in the shouse. In the morning I vor-rk. It is to hafe the house in order fur-rst. I fixit my clothes und then-oh! it is not poetic, no!-I stopfe Strumpfe. more proud of my cooking as of my singing."

"And now, do you not practise anging, too?"

ber one hoondert und sexty parts. To-morrow I could sing them."

"Madame has a most remarkable memory," interpolated her secretary,

claimed, raising her hands in despair, "I think I nefer speak the Ainglish so to Hoboken? I can play in 'Lofe's Lottery.' Many times, when I pr-ractise at my piano I should I not? Always, when I was young, it was in light oper-ras I sing, happy. Lis-stan: When fur-st I want to sing in the Wagner operas they say, 'Oh, o; you are a comedienne. In Wagner you would be funny. You make the public laugh. But you must not be funny in Wagner.' I do now what I did in Germany many times. Why, then, should the public be surprised? I am not so," contorting her face into a pict ne of wee. "I am not heavy in kinder at home, and how I say to myself 'Maype there is no fire, maype they the heart. I am light-hearted, Gott sei Dank! More light as in my feet. remember, I am not a girl any more, not even a show-girl."

W ITHOUT exactly asking her whether she was "out for the dough," I sought to learn from Madame whether mere shekels had lured her of comic opera.

carried more of contradiction than conviction, for she added: "But if I had marks in Hamburg." known how much money I would make in concer-rt per-rhaps I should not nave gone into comic oper-ra."

"Your concert tour was very successful?"

"That's a lot of money," I ventured.

"Madame made over \$59,000 in tour months and a half," Mr. Rapp



HEARTED. "So viel," illustrated the "possessing" prima donna, making hoops of her arms.

America. She has every reason to love this land of the free currency, though her affection is obviously sincere. Every cent she has to-day der Sympathic"—fluttering her fingers has come from the great and generous American public.

"Everything is so free here, like the air," she enthused. "If it is in you clutch at in this flood of German. It comes outside. There is so much room, such a bigness, so!" and hearted dressmaker. "From the fur-rst, America has been goot to me. HAT do they in Germany think of your departure from grand opera?" When I came ofer in 1898 I hafe a contract with Meester Grau for \$50 a When I am home I vor-rk always in the house und in the garden, und I am per-rformance. At the end of the year he tear up the contract und say: 'I To them it is no different than I have done." gife you more.' Ah, Grau! He's a high-a big-a fine man! It is now as home, America, und sometimes when I am in Germany I grow sick in the "Oh, yes, but not the music I sing at night. Never do I-how you say heart for America. In my house all is American-the furniture, the picit?-pr-practise the opera I am singing. Always other music. After the first tures, the statuary; und see," she broke off, springing up and bringing a per-rformance I know it. I shut the book, so," bringing her hands together picture of her home from the mantel, "here from the top of the house with a vigorous clap, "dad I hafe it here," tapping her temple. "I r-remem- floats the American mit the German flag. Sometime you must come und

> Of course, I said I should be delighted. If there's one thing that thrills a regular my-country-'tis-of-thee citizen, it's to see the Stars and Stripes

cry und I say I nefer can learn the lan'w'ge so the owdience it conderstand course—and bringing out other pictures, one showing her at work in her me. But in eight weeks I learn my par-ri-yes, in eight weeks. Und tell garden. "I am a very simple women, und to be with my children und me, you do not scold me, like some, because in comic oper-ra I go? Why my flowers und my vegetables, and my crocks in the cellar, ach! then I am

> "You thought of all this while you were singing 'Sweet Thoughts of Home' on Monday night?"

Her eyes filled as she answered: "Yes, of this und those har-rd days in Hamburg when I sing for twenty marks a night, und think of the kleine are crying, maype they fall out of bed?" Und when the act is ofer, I r-run Meester Edwards he wr-rite for me a Spanish dance to go with my Spanish home to sec-I live so close beside the theatre-and then I r-run back again costoom-tra la la la-la-la-so"-- he danced it sitting-"but I say, 'Please in time for the next act. Oh! I was very poor then-sometimes I sing when I almost starve. The people in Hamburg-dear old Hamburg!-they remember me, ach, yes! when I push my leetle baby in its buggy along the

"Did you expect then that some day you would be a great singer?" "Oh, no, I want only to support my family. I tell you something now. from the peaks of grand opera to the Daisy-and-Maizie-dotted plain but you will laugh. No? But it will be time to laugh. This is it: Now, today, many times, I tell myself, 'It is a dream; you will wake up; you will "No," she said, somewhat doubtfully it struck me, and her next words hate nothing; you will be nothing, joost a poor girl singing for twenty

> O," said the Lina of "Love's Lottery," when asked whether she AIDAI [B'way & gold, Mat. Daily, 25c. O," said the Lina of "Love's Lottery," when asked whether sae considered her going into comic opera any sacrifice of her art. PAPINTA Sidney Deane & Co., considered her going into comic opera any sacrifice of her art. "As I said, I am doing now joost what I used to do in Germany, joost what the people there liked me to do. Why should I not do it here? BROADWAY | S.CHUMANN-HEINK

can please, that is genug. The artiste is not for herself, she is for the public. I do not care to whom I sing if they like it, if I can gife pleasure. I would sing as much for the per-rson who pay twenty-five cents as the r-rich one who pays five dollars. It makes no difference, und I see efery face in the owdience, even in the last back row. Also I r-remember every face and would recognize it if again I saw it. I know, also, who is my friends in the owdience. Something comes to me from them-it is-like, ah, well-gerade als ob ein elektrischer Strom mir vom Publikum zu fliesst, als ob die Wellen

"Electric currents," interpreted the secretary, offering me a straw to

"Nothing," replied Mme. Schumann-Heink. "It is all right

"And at Bayreuth?" "There, too, all right. Frau Wagner she said only, 'Do not forget Wagner; do not forget boyreuth: come back."

"And you will sing there again?" "Oh, yes: the next three summers I sing there

"You are under contract here for three years?"

"Yes." "And after that?"

"I think I make one more tour in concert, then I retire, perhaps to "Yes," she laughed, "like my Ainglish, it is goot. But, oh!" she ex- floating over foreign soil. Don't you feel something of this when you go teach. I want to leave the stage when I am yet a singer. I do not want the public, when it hears me for the last time, to say: 'She is old; her voice is gone.' And pretty soon then my Maria Theresia she may be a great singer. She has such a voice now, und she is yet only eight! She is prettier as her mother-yes?" She laughed softly, gazing fondly at a photograph of the handsome child.

"And she is one of the nine or ten-reports are so conflicting?"

"If I believe the noospapers all what I read here, I hafe twenty-six," pealed this merry mother. "But I hafe eight. I swear it'-only eight, no CHARLES DARNTON. more besides. Und eight is genug!"

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could not obtain damages

"What would you do if I were to die?" "That's for you to say, my dear," re plied the other half of the sketch

Gunner-Yes, submarine

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